

Amendment No. 1 to SJR0592

**Kilby
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AMEND Senate Joint Resolution No. 592*

by deleting all language of the printed resolution and by substituting instead the following:

A RESOLUTION concerning the safety and security of America's
shipping ports.

WHEREAS, the Bush administration's recent decision to permit the transfer of management rights for certain key American port terminals to Dubai Ports World, a state-owned company in the United Arab Emirates, is a matter of utmost concern; and

WHEREAS, like most Americans, the vast majority of Tennesseans were completely unaware of the proposed transfer and its review and consideration by the administration; and

WHEREAS, this transfer would place strategically important cargo terminals within the ports of New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, New Orleans, Miami, and Philadelphia under the management and control of a foreign nation whose largest city, Dubai, is a regional banking center thought to attract assets from various organizations and individuals who crave anonymity; and

WHEREAS, the cargo terminals to be managed by Dubai Ports World accounted for a significant portion of all port traffic coming into America during 2004; and

WHEREAS, each year, over nine million cargo containers pass through U.S. ports, yet only a tiny fraction are physically inspected by customs officials; the next threat to America may well arrive upon our shores via an uninspected cargo container; and

WHEREAS, the head of the United Nation's nuclear watchdog agency has said that a Dubai company helped supply Pakistani nuclear technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Commission to Investigate the Attacks of September 11, 2001, determined that eleven Saudi hijackers traveled to this country via the Dubai airport; and

WHEREAS, America's safety and security must always remain under vigilant American management and control; goods flow from our vital seaports by truck, train, and barge to every town and city throughout this great nation; America's safety and security must never be sold, leased, relinquished or otherwise surrendered to the highest bidder; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby urge the United States Congress to immediately and appropriately intervene to thoroughly scrutinize the proposed transfer of these port terminals to Dubai Ports World and to take all actions necessary to reassure dismayed Tennesseans that the federal government takes seriously its duty to protect the safety and security of U.S. ports.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage Congress, in the future, to play a more vigilant role in assuring that America's safety and security is never sold, leased, relinquished or otherwise surrendered.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker and the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the U.S. Senate, and to each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.